

Feb. 9 1946

Mr Monty Irvin
34 S. Bran St.
San Juan P.R.

Dear Monty:

Pompez just returned from Cuba, and told me some things that made me decide to drop you a line. He said the man from Mexico was down that way, and trying to sign up a lot of good players, you included. I do not blame him for this. Everyone wants a good ball club, but I am writing you to tell you the reasons I think you should give a lot of thought to what course you take.

First of all if you are thinking at all of going back to school under the GI Bill of Rights, the season in Mexico would interfere with it as it is too long. You would be able to play in the states, and stop in time for school. Next about the prospects of The Major Leagues taking Negroes. When Rickey signed Jackie Robinson, I questioned his sincerity. There is no doubt he was trying to get the Negro boys to sign with The United States League for one thing, and he picked a man who would have had an awfully tough time making the position on either of his teams. But I believe he was praised so highly for the move, and received so many compliments from really big people that he had decided not to try and make it work. When he signed Johnny Wright, he has taken a man who is a good ballplayer, and who will not be in the game every day, rubbing elbows with the southerners, and who also has good conduct, and is a nice gentleman. I believe he will make good, and I believe more Major League teams will take Negro's. However the men they take will have to be good, and there is no doubt you would be one of the men they would want.

This is one of the important reasons why you should play in America this year, so you can be seen for one thing. If the experiment with Negro's in the Majors is successful, all the teams will be ready to take you, and almost all of them pay better salaries than Brooklyn. There are several teams I would rather see have you than Brooklyn.

Whatever you do now will decide your entire future and I hope you make the right move. You said you would be back early in March. By that time I will have a lot more information that should interest you. Let me know if you receive this letter. All The Eagles are out of the service but Day.

Very Truly Yours